

March 14, 1984

LB 941

what we have had happen to our tax contributions for the last three years but it should also put us in a good position for the next two years as well. If 941 passes with these figures I will not support additional tax increases in the liquor or beer industry in the next biennium. I am prepared to live with the figures that I amended into 941 in committee for this year and for the next two as well and I would suggest to you that that is a reasonable theory on which to support 941. I, too, support the committee amendments and support the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Pirsch. Senator Pirsch calls the question. Do I see five hands? The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. The question is, shall debate cease. Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Is this for closing?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Pardon me?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Is this for closing on the committee amendments?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Yes, this is to cease debate.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Oh, okay.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 19 ayes, 5 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate does not cease. Senator Chronister, then Senator Pappas.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, generally when an increase on taxes for cigarettes or alcohol comes around I am the first one to jump on the bandwagon. I have never been adverse to increasing taxes on these two items. However, in this instance I think we are whipping a poor horse that is on its knees already. I don't believe inflation is the problem. I believe the drop in consumption is a big enough problem now